completely transform the Food Corporation of India with a view to reducing the expenditure of the corporation;

(b) if so, when and where from Government have received the same; and

(c) the details of the suggestions and the extent to which reduction in expenditure is estimated to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Administrative Staff College of India (Hyderabad), in its Report submitted in May 2001, has, *inter-alia*, suggested that the Government and the FCI should consider policy changes and other measures to restructure the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to reduce the expenditure of the corporation.

(c) The major recommendations in the Report with regard to the restructuring of the FCI are that the Government and the FCI should consider the 'unbunding' of the FCI operations, either functionally or spatially. This could be achieved either by dividing FCI operations by handing over procurement to State Governments, distribution to the railways and physical verification and storage to the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC). An alternative suggested is to create State level Corporation to carry out all the operations within the State. The Union level FCI would limit its procurement, storage etc. to the maintenance of the buffer stocks. The expected reduction of expenditure, on account of the proposed restructuring, has not been quantified in the Report.

Supply of commodities through Fair Price Shops

2991. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities Government are supplying to the consumers through fair price shops;

(b) whether Government have any plan to enforce the supply of other essential commodities to the consumers at a reduced price through fair price shops;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Government is supplying wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Central Government presently makes available to the States the four main essential commodities of daily requirement at subsidized rates for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the Fair Price Shops such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt, tea etc.

Wheat stock with FCI

2992. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI wheat stocks have now crossed 25 million tonnes;

(b) whether the FCI does not store wheat in non-wheat producing States or port cities/areas where wheat is in greater demand;

(c) if so, whether this policy leads to traders exploiting the market is non-wheat producing areas; and

(d) whether FCI has any mechanism in place in anticipating the demand of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. FCI also stores wheat in non-wheat producing states.

(c) Question does not arise.